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of Engineers

Flood Risk Management Program

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Objective

Develop an integrated national flood risk management strategy to protect public safety through a reduction in damage and suffering caused by flood and coastal storm events.

Overriding principles of the Flood Risk Management Program are collaboration and partnership.

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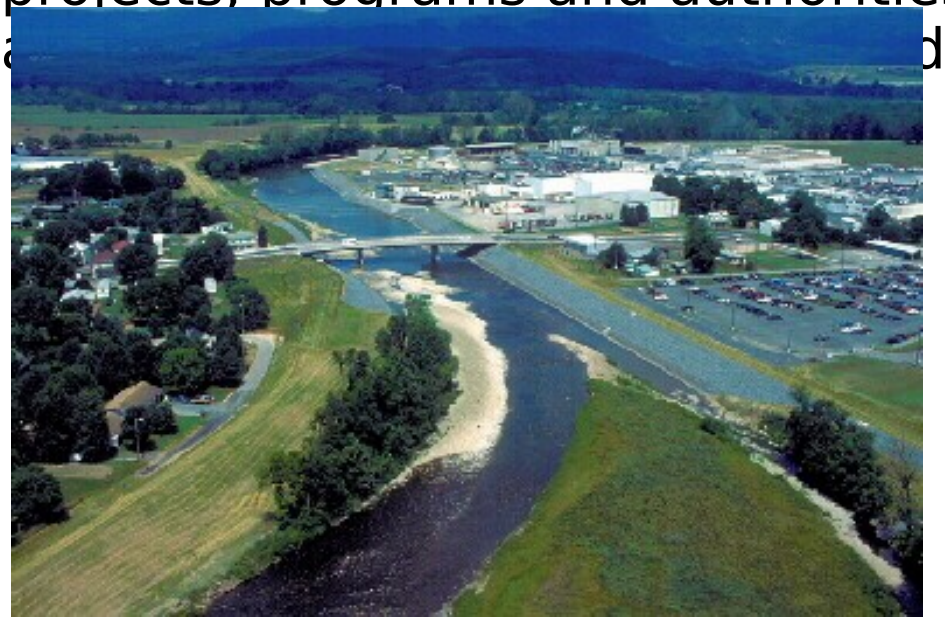
Flood Risk Management Program

Vision: To lead collaborative, comprehensive and sustainable national flood risk management to improve public safety and reduce flood damages to our country.

Mission: To integrate and synchronize the ongoing, diverse flood risk management projects, programs and authorities within the US Army Corps of Engineers and with counterpart projects, programs and authorities of FEMA, other Federal a d regional and local agencies.



National Flood Risk Management Program

FEMA

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Flood Risk Management Program

Strategic Goals

1. **Provide current accurate floodplain information to the public and decision makers.**
2. **Identify and assess flood hazards posed by aging flood damage reduction infrastructure.**
3. **Improve public awareness and comprehension of flood risk.**
4. **Integrate flood damage and flood hazard reduction programs across local, State, and Federal agencies.**
5. **Improve capabilities to collaboratively deliver and sustain flood damage reduction and flood hazard mitigation services to the nation.**

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Current Activities

- **FEMA flood map modernization**
- **Comprehensive National inventory and database of flood damage reduction structures**
- **Assessment of condition of flood damage reduction structures – levee certification for map modernization**
- **Strategy: USACE and FEMA working jointly throughout cycle of floodplain mapping and levee certification**

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Current Corps Activities with FEMA

- **FEMA's Interagency Levee Policy Review Committee – USGS is a participant**
- **Meetings between FEMA, Corps, National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies (NAFSMA), Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) (Interagency Flood Risk Management Committee)**
- **National Flood Risk Management Policy Summit hosted by NAFSMA and ASFPM**

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Potential Collaboration with USGS

USGS Mission: USGS serves the Nation by providing reliable scientific information to describe and understand the Earth; minimize loss of life and property from natural disasters; manage water.

USGS (along with NOAA/NWS) are leaders in flood information, flood data, and flood science.

What are our challenges?

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Flood Risk Communication

Challenge

- **Lack of Understanding of True National Flood Risk**
  - **Perception of flood risk equates only to the presence or absence of mandatory flood insurance requirements.**
  - **There is no common vocabulary between Federal, State, and local agencies when dealing with public on flood risk issues.**

Strategy

- **Work with stakeholders to develop a flood risk communication strategy.**

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Flood Data

Challenges

- **Communication of real-time flood data.**
- **Funding for a stable network of stream gages.**
- **FEMA support of National Streamflow Information Program (NSIP).**

Strategy

- **Improve Federal agency dialog.**
- **USGS-NWS-FEMA-USACE collaboration.**

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Flood Research Needs

Challenges

- **Improve flood risk information for flood risk management**
  - **Implications of using 1%-annual probability flood standard: How frequently does 1% event occur across multiple communities over time?**
  - **Changes in flood risk over time**
    - **How have the consequences of flooding changed over time as development in floodplain has increased?**
    - **How has the probability of flooding changed over time?**

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Current Interagency Flood Risk Mitigation Efforts

- Bring together Federal, state and local agencies
- Initiate a team in each State
- Focus on State priorities
- Will not duplicate similar efforts
  - Establish relationships where they don't exist
  - Strengthen existing relationships
  - Supplement successful teams
- Lead facilitators: USACE, FEMA, State flood insurance coordinators, and State Emergency Management Agencies

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Purpose of Silver Jackets

- **Provide life-cycle hazard planning**
- **Develop and maintain strong partnerships**
- **Improve processes, identify gaps, and make recommendations**
- **Leverage resources and information**
- **Be active participants with State-wide planning**

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Will this work? Pilot Team - Ohio

Team members: USACE, FEMA, USGS, NWS, NRCS, EDA, HUD, OEPA, ODNR, OEMA, ODOD

Mission Statement: ....*is an implementation sub-team of the State of Ohio Mitigation Team dedicated to creating a collaborative environment to bring together Federal, State, local, and other stakeholders to develop and implement solutions to natural hazard response and mitigation problems.*

Started with pilot community – Marietta

- **Identify risks and different levels of risk.**
- **Identify Marietta mitigation goals.**
- **Identify agencies and POCs/programs/processes for each feasible measure.**
- **Identify possible funding sources (federal, state, and local).**

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Silver Jackets in Ohio and USGS

Jim Morris, District Chief, USGS –

"The USGS Ohio Water Science Center supports the collaboration of the various Federal, state, and local agencies, as proposed by the Silver Jackets Program, to explore innovative options for natural-hazard mitigation at the local level. Of particular value is the effort to maximize taxpayers' investment by using a collaborative approach to potentially combine various partners' programs and resources, resulting in more complete and cost-effective solution strategies."

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Flood Risk Management Program

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